

Wilmington, Delaware
July 3, 2014

#3958

Sponsor:

Council
Member
Wright

Co-Sponsors:

Council
Members
D. Brown
Shabazz

WHEREAS, Congress originally established the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program in the 1972 Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, later renamed the Pell Grant program in 1980 in honor of Senator Clairborne Pell; and

WHEREAS, Senator Mary Landrieu has introduced Bill S.2374, known as the "Middle Class Chance Act" which increases the maximum amount of Pell Grants awarded to eligible students and extends the number semesters students can attend an institution of higher education from 12 to 15 semesters; and

WHEREAS, Pell Grants are the nation's largest source for funding need based education and provide federal grant aid directly to financially needy undergraduate students to pay for the cost of attendance at any eligible institution of higher education; and

WHEREAS, since 1982, the cost of attending college has increased 439%, more than four times the rate of inflation; and

WHEREAS, Pell Grants ensure that qualified students have access to obtaining a college degree, and are the primary form of financial aid used by most students; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, more than \$33 billion in scholarships were awarded under the Pell Grant program to nearly 9.7 million students in 2011 to 2012, almost 80% of whom come from families living under the national average annual income; and

WHEREAS, investing in Pell Grants more than pays for the cost of the program by compensating the nation with an educated work force, decreases the burden on social services, increases tax revenues and economic growth, which benefits not only the country as a whole, but also the State and the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the City Council wholeheartedly endorses Senator Landrieu's bill to improve college affordability by increasing the maximum amount awarded to eligible students under the Pell Grant program, as well as extending the number of semesters students can attend institutions of higher education, and urges Congress to pass Bill S. 2374 allowing students to achieve the 'American Dream' of earning a college degree.

Passed by City Council,
July 3, 2014

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 2nd
day of July, 2014

Dany Shetr
Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution respectfully urges the Congressional Delegation to support Bill S. 2374, known as "Middle Class Chance Act", which increases the maximum amount of Pell Grants awarded to eligible students and extends the number semesters students can attend an institution of higher education from 12 to 15 semesters.